

REMARKS

The Office Action and the cited and applied references have been carefully reviewed. Claims 1 and 6 are allowed. Claim 17 also presently appear in the pending set of claims and define patentable subject matter warranting its allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 17 is now amended as suggested by the examiner, thereby obviating this rejection.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Invitrogen 1997 product catalog in view of Yamashiro et al. This rejection is made moot by the cancellation of rejected claim 13 without prejudice.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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